Washington Dec.r 16.th 1819.

Thursday evens

My dearest Lucrece,

I have not heard from you since your dear letter at N.York, I have enquired often at the office and now begin to feel anxious; Every day, (and night too) reminds me of the absence of my dear bosom friend, my affectionate Lucrece. I cannot express the vacancy I feel in every thing without my beloved wife; I hope I shall hear soon from her.

I began on Monday to paint the President and have almost completed the head, I am thus far pleased with it, but I find it very perplexing, for he cannot sit more than 10 or 20 minutes at a time, so that the moment I feel engaged he is called away again, I set my pallette to-day at 10 o'clock and waited until 4 o'clock this afternoon before he came in; he then sat 10 minutes and we were called to dinner, is not this trying to one's patience? My room is at his house next to his cabinet room for his convenience, when he has a moments leisure he comes in to sit to me; he is very agreeable and affable as are also his family; I drank tea with them on Saturday evens.g dined on Monday, and to-day with the Presidential

family

Last evng. was a drawing room, I attended; saw most of the great folks, foreign ministers &c.— Mrs Monroe was splendidly dressed as were her two daughters also, one married; the other a pretty girl of 16.— the drawing room is superbly furnished; the President recollects well his visit to Concord, spoke highly of the society there.—

I hope to get through with his Portrait this week or the beginning of next week, and then set off for Charleston as fast as possible; I hear such dismal accounts of dreary roads and bad conveyance by land that I have almost determined to return to Baltimore and sail from there, if there is a good vessel going about the time. I wish, I think I shall go.— I will let you know which way I shall go before I leave Washington.—

How does the dear little babe do?— Kiss little Susan for her father. I hope we shall all be spared in the mercy of God to meet again; I would not feel anxious beyond measure, we should never "be afraid of evil tidings," let us never be surprised by any dispensation of Providence, trust in him with all our heart and he will order all things well for us both for time and eternity.— In his hands I can safely leave my dearest wife and daughter, knowing assuredly that all things whether

prosperous or adverse, will be ordered in mercy.—

Good bye dearest wife, comport your husband by writing often and as long letters as you can. Love to Father and Mother and Sisters, and brothers and all friends,

again good bye and believe me your
ever affectionate husband

Sam.l F. B. Morse.

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Mrs Lucretia P. Morse
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